

"If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It!"

William P. Ancker

What that old folk adage lacks in grammatical accuracy, it makes up for in down-to-earth wisdom: change simply for the sake of change can be a waste of time and effort. As the *English Teaching Forum* begins its 39th year of publication, I would like to introduce myself as the new editor-in-chief of the magazine. I plan to continue the excellent work of my predecessors, not just saving time and effort, but—more importantly—serving the global readership. Many readers tell us that the *Forum* is an invaluable part of an English teacher's professional library. I agree and want to keep it that way.

The fact that the *Forum* doesn't need "fixing" is in large part due to the outstanding work of Cynthia Malecki and Paulette Jordan. I thank them for their inestimable guidance as I adjust to my new job. We will continue to focus on the practical, rather than theoretical, aspects of improving the teaching of English and to provide content-based material on topics relevant to modern democratic societies. Let me also reiterate what every other editor has already told you: we welcome your submissions to the *Forum*.

I am pleased and proud to accept the challenges and responsibilities that come with this new position. I started using the magazine in 1982, when I was fresh out of graduate school and began my career in Guadalajara, Mexico. That is also when I sent in my first submission (it was rejected!). Ever since I have relied on the *Forum* to inform and improve my teaching. More recently, as an English Language Officer with the office of the U.S. Department of State that publishes the *Forum*, I've distributed thousands of copies of the magazine and found it is always a welcome addition to workshop handouts and conference bags.

Although it's my first, this issue should be like every other, featuring helpful articles and information about a variety of topics of interest to English teachers at all levels. The theme is women in sports. You will find articles on teaching reading and vocabulary, developing emotional intelligence through literature, and using humor to help students learn. There is also a chapter from our electronic journal *Language and Civil Society* on the role of rules and laws in society.